

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 16-25 are pending in the application, with claims 16, 19, and 22 being the independent claims. Independent claims 16, 19, and 22 have been amended. The amendments are supported in the specification at least at the first two paragraphs of page 35, referring to FIG. 43. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered after final rejection because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,174,762 to Hopkins *et al.* Claim 16 has been amended to recite the increase of output rotation speed of the second transmission is gradual at an early period of the shift of the steering operation device from the straight traveling position towards the full left or right turning position and the increase of output rotation speed of the second transmission is steep at a late period of the shift of the steering operation device from the straight traveling position towards the full left or right turning position. This feature of amended claim 16 is shown at least in FIG. 43 of the present application. The Hopkins *et al.* does not disclose this feature, and thus does not anticipate claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 16 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopkins *et al.* Claims 17 and 18 depend from independent claim 16. As discussed above, the Hopkins *et al.* patent does not disclose or render obvious varying the response of the second hydrostatic transmission based on the turning of the steering operation device, as recited in amended independent claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 17 and 18 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 19 and 22, and claims 20-21 and 23-25 which depend therefrom, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopkins *et al.* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,471,669 to Seaberg. Independent claims 19 and 22 have been amended to recite the increase of output rotation speed of the hydraulic motor of the steering hydrostatic transmission is gradual at an early period of the shift of the steering operation device from the straight traveling position towards the full left or right turning position and the increase of output rotation speed of the hydraulic motor of the steering hydrostatic transmission is steep at a late period of the shift of the steering operation device from the straight traveling position towards the full left or right turning position. This feature of amended claims 19 and 22 is shown at least in FIG. 43 of the present application. Neither the Hopkins *et al.* patent, nor the Seaberg patent, disclose or render obvious this feature. Claims 20-21 and 23-25 depend from and add features to independent claims 19 and 22, respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 19 and 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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